

Sea Sampling (Observer) Data



Summary of Presentation

- Number of observer days by gear type
- Overview of data collected

Number of Observer Days

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Gillnet	1,399	1,184	775	1,727
Bottom otter trawl	260	303	448	3,060
Scallop Dredge	256	105	104	1,001
Other	16	6	17	Mid-water trawl 209, Purse seine 24, MW Pair trawl 36, Clam dredge 32, hook and longline 40, BSB pots 15
Total	1,931	1,598	1,344	6,144

Brief Overview of Data Collected

- Trip details: ID, dates, ports, gear
- Vessel characteristics
- Trip costs: fuel, ice, supplies, food, water, bait, oil
- Some fixed costs (insurance, repair/maint, new equip costs) and equipment inventory
- Individual haul info: set/haul times, location, catch and discards by species
- Gear characteristics

Data Collected - continued

- Marine mammal, sea turtle, sea bird incidental takes
- Marine mammal and sea turtle sightings
- Individual animal info – where appropriate
- Bio-sampling

Vessel Operating Cost Data



Summary of Presentation

- Pre-1996 Cost Data
- 1996 – 2001 University Surveys
- Survey Design
- Data Quality/Gaps – surveys
- Cost Data through Observer Program
- Future Cost Data Collection

Pre-1996 (Amendments 5 and 7) Data

- Annual tax returns were available from the Capital Construction Fund
 - Not representative
 - Annual level data
 - Lumping of costs
- Otter trawl financial simulator based on these data by John Gates at URI

1996 through 2001 University Surveys

- Social Sciences Branch funded university administered surveys of major NE fisheries
 - Hook (UMASS - Dartmouth)
 - Large and small trawlers (URI)
 - Scallop dredge (UMASS - D)
 - Surf clam/ocean quahog dredge (Rutgers)
 - Squid/butterfish (UMASS – D)
 - Herring/mackerel (URI)
 - Party/Charter boats in NY, NJ, and ME (Rutgers)
- Hook and trawler data used for Amendment 13

Survey Design

- Mail surveys sent to all vessels in the fishery
- Surveys were voluntary and anonymous
- No questions about revenue
- Surveys asked for typical trip costs and annual fixed costs
 - Trip costs: fuel, lubrication, ice, food, water, supplies, unloading fees, consignment fees
 - Fixed costs: insurance, permits, mooring/dockage, association fees, professional fees, office expenses, business use of vehicle, taxes, repairs/maintenance
 - Other: vessel/gear characteristics, effort, loan information, lay system,

Data Quality/Gaps - surveys

- Low response rates for mail-in surveys raises questions about how well the sample represents the population
- Trip costs were for a “typical” trip which limits modeling efforts
- Surveys were anonymous so could not link individual vessel costs with individual landings records – formed “representative vessel” by gear and vessel size
- Revenue was not collected on survey

Vessel Cost Data through Observer Program

- Since 1995, trip cost and a limited amount of fixed cost information has been collected through the observer program
- Since most of the coverage was on gillnet vessels (used for A13 analyses), we funded coverage of additional gear types in 2002 - 2004
- This new data was not available for A13 analyses

Future Cost Data Collection

- The observer program will be used on a continuing basis to provide trip cost information for a variety of gear types. Fixed costs will be collected via fishing permit applications.
- Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program's three year pilot study
- These programs will provide data at the trip level which can be tied to effort and landings information